

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, FAO, UN

SUBJ: 25TH WFP/IGC: PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES

1. SUMMARY: IN OPENING STATEMENTS TO 25TH WFP/IGC, WFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PROPOSED CONSIDERATION OF GREATER ANNUAL SET ASIDE FOR EMERGENCIES. FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL SUGGESTED URGENT ACTION WITH REGARD TO EXPANDING WFP TO INCLUDE NONFOOD ITEMS SUCH AS FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES. PROPOSAL ON EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO BE DISCUSSED AT 26TH SESSION BUT AGRICULTURE INPUT MATTER SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION THURSDAY, APRIL 25. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ADDRESS PLENARY DURING OPENING SESSION WFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SUGGESTED 26TH IGC (OCT.) CONSIDER WHETHER \$10 MILLION ANNUAL SET ASIDE FOR EMERGENCIES CONTINUES BE ADEQUATE AMOUNT. (DG BOERMA LATER SUPPORTED AQUINO SUGGESTION THIS BE INCREASED, AS DID OTHER SPEAKERS.) MATTER NOT LIKELY BE PRESSED FURTHER DURING CURRENT SESSION BUT OBVIOUSLY FUTURE PROBLEM. BOTH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND IGC MEMBERS NOTED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IS FIRST LISTED PURPOSE OF WFP AS SET FORTH IN REGULATIONS.

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3. BOERMA THEN ADDRESSED IGC AND NEAR CONCLUSION REMARKS

MENTIONED RECENT VISIT N.Y. FOR SPECIAL SESSION GA. CITED ATTENTION BEING GIVEN FORTHCOMING WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE (WFC) AND DISCUSSIONS RE AGRICULTURAL INPUTS, PARTICULARLY FERTILIZER. BOERMA INFORMED IGC OF RECENT ECAFE RESOLUTION WHICH RECOMMENDED ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORLD FERTILIZER FUND AND SAID A NUMBER OF MINISTERS HAD ASKED WHAT ACTION COULD BE TAKEN ENSURE SUPPLY FERTILIZERS TO LDC'S IN NEXT, IF NOT CURRENT, CROP YEAR. HE SAID, THAT RECALLING ECAFE CONCERN, IT WAS CLEAR TO HIM WFP WAS BEST EXISTING CHANNEL. REPORTED THAT THOSE WITH WHOM HE SPOKE AGREED.

4. BOERMA SAID PROPOSAL USE WFP FOR THIS PURPOSE WAS RETURN TO RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HE AND HIS PREDECESSOR (IN SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT VEIN) UNSUCCESSFULLY VOICED IN PAST. NEVERTHELESS, HE FELT WFP SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO HANDLE AGRICULTURAL INPUTS SUCH AS FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES BUT PERHAPS NOT FARM MACHINERY. IN HIS VIEW, WFP HAS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN HANDLING COMMODITIES AND USE THIS PROGRAM WOULD AVOID NEW ORGANIZATION. DG ADMITTED PROCEDURES MIGHT HAVE TO BE DIFFERENT AND "PROGRAM RATHER THAN PROJECT APPROACH" PROBABLY NECESSARY. SAID THIS COULD BE WORKED OUT IF AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE REACHED.

5. APOLOGIZING FOR SUDDENNESS OF PROPOSAL DG ASKED DELEGATIONS SEEK INSTRUCTIONS IN ORDER PERMIT "PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION" AT CURRENT SESSION. THEN SUGGESTED THOUGHT BE GIVEN TO JOINT MEETING IGC AND NEW FAO COMMISSION ON FERTILIZERS (WHICH MEETS JULY). SHOULD AGREEMENT BE REACHED THERE, PROPOSAL COULD GO TO ECOSOC (JULY) FOR ENDORSEMENT AND THEN TO WFC (NOVEMBER.) THE NECESSARY ACCEPTANCE BY FAO COUNCIL WOULD THEN BE SOUGHT DURING SESSION WHICH IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWS WFC. CONCLUDING REMARK WAS THAT IT HAS BEEN CLEAR TO FAO SOME DIRECT ACTION, SUCH AS AN INTERNATIONAL ALLOCATION SCHEME, IS NEEDED IN ORDER TO ENSURE FERTILIZER AVAILABILITY TO SOME PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE COUNTRIES.

6. IGC, HAS TRADITIONALLY RESENTED BEING CONFRONTED BY PROPOSALS NOT CIRCULATED IN ADVANCE AND THIS WAS NO EXCEPTION. NEVERTHELESS, SOME SUPPORT PROMPTLY PROVIDED. INDIA LED OFF AND TUNISIA AND BANGLADESH (OBSERVER) FOLLOWED

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SUIT. CANADA, UK, AND NETHERLANDS AGREED IMPORTANCE OF MATTER AND WILLINGNESS DISCUSS BUT QUESTIONED POSSIBILITY OF CLARIFYING NUMEROUS ISSUES AND QUESTIONS INVOLVED IN TIME AVAILABLE TO IGC.

7. ITEM, NEVERTHELESS, SCHEDULED FOR DEBATE THURSDAY, APRIL 25. DG PROMISED CIRCULATE TEXT OF ECAFE RESOLUTION AND IN EXPLANATORY COMMENTS SAID IF AGREEMENT REACHED IT WOULD

BE NECESSARY ESTABLISH SEPARATE FUND TO WHICH AGRICULTURAL INPUTS COULD BE PLEDGED.

8. AQUINO SPOKE PRIOR BOERMA BUT MADE NO REFERENCE PROPOSAL. (IN EARLIER PRIVATE COMMENTS HE CLEARLY INDICATED THIS NOT BEING PUSHED BY HIM). UN REPRESENTATIVE SPOKE FOLLOWING BOERMA BUT ALSO MADE NO REFERENCE TO THIS ASPECT DG SPEECH. LATER QUESTION BY NETHERLANDS AS TO UN VIEW ON PROPOSAL WENT UNANSWERED.

9. VIEW OF DELEGATION IS US SHOULD OPPOSE ANY QUICK ENDORSEMENT THIS PROPOSAL, EVEN IN PRINCIPLE. IT LIKELY DISTORT IF NOT ENDANGER ONGOING FOOD PROGRAM AND WOULD ADD TREMENDOUS BURDEN TO WFP STAFF WHICH PRESENTLY HAVING DIFFICULTY IN CARRYING OUT EFFECTIVE PROGRAM. FURTHER, AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED, FAO HAS NO EXPERTISE TO HANDLE AGRICULTURAL INPUTS.

10. WILL WORK WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS AND OPPOSE ALONG ABOVE LINES UNLESS ADVISED CONTRARY. IF NECESSARY, WILL AGREE AD HOC PANEL TO CONSIDER WHETHER WFP COULD TAKE THIS ON BUT INSIST ANY SUCH CONSIDERATION BE OBJECTIVE, LOOKING AT PROS AND CONS, AND CONSTITUTE NO IGC DECISION, EVEN IN PRINCIPLE, RE DG'S APPROACH. IF PANEL CONSTITUTED, WE WILL INSIST IT REPORT TO IGC ITSELF, NOT ANY OTHER INTERNATIONAL LOBBY. VOLPE

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